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May 10, 2002

Joshua Lederberg  
The Rockefeller University  
1230 York Avenue  
New York, New York 10021-6399

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

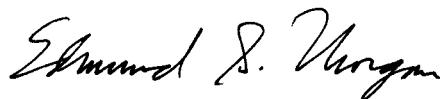
Thank you for your good letter with the citations to Caulfield. There have been many historians working on demography in recent years. Since my own work has been in early America, what little I know is mainly concerned with periods before 1800. When you ask about life expectancy and mortality before 1900, you are probably most interested in the 1800s. But the crude figures that can be assembled for earlier periods may be of use. The French were the first in the field, followed by the English, and then the Americans. Most of the studies have been of towns or villages rather than whole countries, and I have enclosed a few samples.

The only citation to nineteenth-century figures I have found is in the bibliography to E.A. Wrigley, *Population and History* (1969). It is "Report from Mr. Finlaison, Actuary of the National Debt, on the evidence and elementary facts on which Tables of Life Annuities are founded," *Parliamentary Papers, 1829*, III, 287-355. I have not located it and have no idea of the contents.

The most interesting thing I found was the article by Biraben on the plague epidemic in France, 1720-1722, from an issue of *Daedalus* in Spring, 1968, devoted to assorted articles on demography. The figures Biraben gives for the larger French towns are spectacular by comparison with those known for other epidemics.

After writing the above, it occurred to me that there might be something in the *Historical Statistics of the United States*, printed by the government. There is precious little in it before the year 1900, but it did have figures for Massachusetts from 1850 to 1950. I have <sup>enclosed</sup> a copy. I feel certain that there are other historians working on the nineteenth century who will have much more. Those whose names occur to me are Robert Fogel and Stanley Engerman; I am not sure where they are located now.

With all good wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Edmund S. Morgan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Edmund" and last name "Morgan" clearly legible.

Edmund S. Morgan